

historic account, a discussion on the origin and affinities of the family, and an important account of the external Morphology and Taxonomy, whilst the rest of the memoir is devoted to the systematic treatment of the genus. It is unfortunate that a Bibliography had been omitted (due to its length and the high cost of printing and paper).

Mr. Hirst has demonstrated that the genital opening of the male is *dorsal* and situated well forward on the cephalothorax, and, basing his argument chiefly upon this fact, he suggests that the family is probably a degenerate branch of the Cheletidæ, thus isolating it from the Tetrápoda (Eriophyidæ) and suggesting a closer relationship between the Thrombidiidæ (or, as is still more widely used, Trombidiidæ) and Sarcoptidæ than has generally been accepted. As, however, the Cheletids are very closely related to other Acarids wherein the genital opening is ventral, it is possible that this feature has not the importance here attached to it.

The publication is illustrated by thirteen plates from excellent drawings by Mr. F. Highley, and it will be seen that the memoir is not only of distinct value and interest to the systematist, but also to the biologist and morphologist, and, though *Demodex* is regarded as harmless to the majority of those who have studied it, it may yet loom large in the eyes of the economic bionomist.

*Report on Cetacea stranded on the British Coasts during 1918.* By Dr. S. F. HARMER, F.R.S. Printed by Order of the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History).

THESE reports are proving a valuable addition to zoological literature, and this particular one must be regarded as of outstanding interest, inasmuch as it is shown that the Cetacean recorded last year as Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) from Liscannor, Co. Clare, has proved, after cleaning and a closer examination than was then possible, to be a new British whale, and one of remarkable rarity, *Mesoplodon mirus*. It was only described by the late Mr. F. W. True from a female example taken at Beaufort Harbour, North Carolina, in July 1912. The Liscannor specimen is an adult male, and Dr. Harmer's researches and enquiries elicit the fact that a third example (sex unknown) is in the possession of the Museum of University College, Galway, whilst another Galway specimen in the same collection is referable to the rare Cuvier's whale (*Z. cavirostris*); both had been erroneously referred to the *Mesoplodon hectori* of Gray.